

INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF ACTING DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL
FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 2, IN OFFICE OF ACTING DIRECTOR

PRESENT: Department of State - Mr. Sargeant, Acting Director
Mr. Stone, Executive Secretary
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Hulten
Mr. MacKnight
Mr. Oechsner,
Joint Chiefs of Staff - Admiral Stevens
Department of the Army -General McClure
Economic Cooperation Administration - Mr. Drummond
Mr. Mullen
Central Intelligence Agency -

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With respect to Item I on the agenda, lists of IFIS projects in work and proposed were distributed. Mr. Stone reported that IFIS, in recent meetings, had devoted considerable attention to the question of priorities. In his view, there were two principal categories where IFIS projects required careful definition regarding priorities: (1) time planning projects growing out of NSC-74; (2) current interdepartmental planning projects centering on potentially dangerous situations such as Eastern Germany and Viet Nam.

Mr. Stone suggested that the matter of priorities be dealt with either at a special projects session of the board, or in a joint meeting of the board and IFIS. Following discussion, it was agreed that the board would set a special meeting for projects at which Mr. Stone should brief the board on current and pending IFIS projects, immediately after which the board would be joined by IFIS for a joint meeting.

In connection with Item II on the agenda, Mr. Stone summarized 20 major types of overt projects in which private organizations and industry were cooperating with the information program. Mr. Sargeant stated that the U.S. Advisory Commission on Information was setting up five panels for study and stimulation of various phases of the information program and that one of these panels, headed by Mr. Philip Reed, would deal with cooperation with private business organizations.

Mr. Hulten announced that in addition to the New York and Washington offices now assisting in the development of cooperation between the information program and private business, there would also be set up offices in Chicago, San Francisco, and New Orleans for this purpose.

Mr. Stone was requested to have copies for distribution to members of the board of a list of the types of projects to which he had referred in his statement.

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[redacted] in reporting on projects developed in connection with his organization's foreign activities, said that he felt the need of a clearer definition between overt, gray, and covert activities. He suggested that this topic be placed on the agenda for a board meeting, and it was agreed that this should be arranged for a meeting to take place next Tuesday, October 10, to enable Mr. Drummond to be present.

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The Acting Director, in welcoming Mr. Drummond to the meeting, requested him to report on his observations as Chief of ECA information activities in Europe. Mr. Drummond stated that he found opinion in Western Europe today in a malleable state. Reaction to the victory in Korea had been tremendous; feelings were further buoyed by U.S. support for a combination of forces with Europe and support for the incorporation of Western Germany in the defense system. There was less interest in the Marshall Plan, per se, in the light of these other developments and this highlighted the need of a U.S. information program (ECA and State) strongly supporting U.S. objectives. The opportunities were favorable, and if we availed ourselves of them rightly, we might accomplish in the next two years what it might take us fifty years to accomplish otherwise. We should risk doing too much rather than too little.

In connection with Item III on the agenda, status of State Department plan covering its psychological warfare responsibilities and tasks in the event of war, Mr. Phillips reported that he and Mr. Heath Bowman of PRS were working on an outline plan which they would have circulated in order to secure answers to certain questions which had arisen. They would also ask the geographic desks for comment in connection with sections relating to the approach to the Soviet Union itself. It was agreed that, following circulation and study of the outline plan, it would be placed on an early agenda for discussion by the board.

Mr. Sargeant asked, in connection with the preparation of this plan, whether it was felt that the board should take cognizance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff p.w. annex, of which Admiral Stevens had supplied copies to Mr. Barrett's office. Admiral Stevens replied that he felt that taking cognizance of the plan would be part of the board's responsibility for seeing that a national p.w. plan was produced. It was part of his responsibilities, he said, to see that war plans were coordinated with such a national plan.

Mr. Sargeant reported on the status of the study of the use of sea-borne transmitters as a possible adjunct of land-based transmitters in both peacetime and wartime. He outlined a number of

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alternative proposals. Mr. Hulten explained that present thinking does not contemplate the use of sea-borne transmitters as substitutes for land-based ones. General McClure expressed the hope that the possibility of the use of sea-borne transmitters independently of land-based ones would continue to be considered.

Mr. Stone distributed copies of a draft telegram to CINCFE regarding the collection of certain intelligence for propaganda purposes on the Communist occupation of South Korea during hostilities. It was agreed that a more detailed list of suggestions and questions as to the material wanted should be prepared by Mr. Stone for possible transmission to CINCFE.

Admiral Stevens brought up the matter of certain difficulties which had arisen in connection with comment by JSPD and the individual services on State Department information policy guidances containing controversial issues, and pointed out that the mechanics were not at present satisfactory. There was brief discussion of whether the "clearance" of guidances was tantamount to the securing of "concurrences." Mr. Oechsner stated that the entire subject of guidance procedures was slated for thorough discussion by IFIS at its conference scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, and it was agreed that a report on the results of this conference should be submitted to the board at its next regular meeting.

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Admiral Stevens reiterated his feeling of the need of a statement of the functions and authority of the strategy board, and his feeling that this should be in writing. [redacted] agreed with this view. Mr. Sargeant stated that this was a matter which he would have to refer to Mr. Barrett.

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[redacted] referred to a provision in the memorandum of decisions regarding balloons, reached at the board's meeting of September 13, to the effect that any further use of balloons was subject to the board's prior authorization. On the assumption that this constituted a ban on the covert use of balloons without specific authorization, he requested that a project proposal by his organization be placed on an early agenda of the board. [redacted] reported that he had been informed that the staff of the U.N. Public Relations Section included numerous Communist sympathizers, and wondered whether there was anything that the board could do to facilitate an investigation

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investigation of their influence. [redacted] further expressed the hope that something might be done to further his early suggestion that "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, be produced as an animated cartoon for use in the information program. Admiral Stevens stated that he was not convinced that it would make a suitable film.

Mr. Oechsner asked whether, in view of the number of agenda items slated for early consideration, the board might wish to hold its regular Monday meeting next week, in addition to the meeting scheduled for Tuesday. It was agreed to hold both a Monday and Tuesday meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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MEMORANDUM TO RECIPIENTS OF THE INFORMAL MINUTES OF MEETING OF ACTING DIRECTOR, INTERDEPARTMENTAL FOREIGN INFORMATION ORGANIZATION, AND CONSULTANTS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, IN OFFICE OF ACTING DIRECTOR

In accordance with decision at IFIO meeting of Monday, October 9, please make the following deletions from your copy of the minutes of October 2:

Page 3, Paragraph 4, last line - delete, "inversely." ✓

Page 4, Lines 4, 5, and 6 - delete, "Admiral Stevens suitable film." ✓

*deletions made 16 Oct.
from*

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